

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT EC BRUSSELS 10030 ACTION SECSTAT INFO EC CAPITALS

BERN HELSINKI MADRID OSLO PRAGUE REYKJAVIK

STOCKHOLM VALLETTA VIENNA NATO 19 DEC

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 10030

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, XT EEC

SUBJECT: VETTER-SEGUY MEETING MUST BE RATIFIED BY THE ETUC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 9936

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO ETUC SECRETARY JEAN KULAKOWSKI
THE RECENT ETUC PRESIDUM PROPOSAL THAT PRESIDENT VETTER
MEET WITH FRENCH CGT GENERAL SECRETARY SEGUY (SEE REFTL)
MUST BE APPROVED BY THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHEN IT
MEETS ON FEBRUARY 6. KULAKOWSKI ALSO SAID THAT THE ICFTU
AND WCL HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE EAST-WEST
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING AT GENEVA IN LATE FEBRUARY.

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END SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 18 ETUC SECRETARY KULAKOWSKI MET WITH SEVEN BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE DECEMBER 17 EC COUNCIL OF LABOR MINISTERS MEETING (SEE SEPTEL). KULAKOWSKI INFORMED THE GROUP THAT THE ETUC WAS "QUOTE SATISFIED" WITH THE LABOR MINISTERS MEETING, PARTICULARLY THE DECISION TO REACTIVATE THE TRIPARTITE EC STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT.

3. WHILE THERE WAS GENERAL INTEREST IN THE COUNCIL MEETING MOST OF THE DISCUSSION WITH KULAKOWSKI CENTERED ON EAST-WEST MATTERS AND THE FRENCH CGT APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC. ON THE LATTER, KULAKOWSKI SAID THAT A MAJORITY OF ETUC LEADERS ARE SO STRONGLY OPPOSED TO CGT ADMISSION THAT IT IS NOT LIKELY TO OCCUR IN LESS THAN THREE YEARS IF AT ALL. HE ADDED THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR A VETTER-SEGUY MEETING ADVANCED BY THE ETUC PRESIDUM MUST BE RATIFIED BY THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL MEET ON FEBRUARY 6. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, HE SAID, COULD CONCEIVABLY REJECT THIS PROPOSAL.

4. KULAKOWSKI ALSO REVEALED THAT THE ICFTU AND WCL HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SEND OBSERVERS TO THE FEBRUARY EAST-WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING IN GENEVA. HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE TWO INTERNATIONALS WOULD SEND MINOR SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS TO THE MEETING ALTHOUGH THERE IS CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION IN THE ICFTU TO SUCH A PROPOSAL.

5. KULAKOWSKI REITERATED HIS WELL-KNOWN BELIEF THAT EAST-WEST CONTACTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ILO HAVE VALUE. HOWEVER, HE LAMENTED THE FACT THAT THE WEST WILL AGAIN GO TO GENEVA WITHOUT A COORDINATED PLAN OR STRATEGY. HE SAID THAT PRELIMINARY EAST-WEST DISCUSSIONS AT GENEVA LAST MONTH SERVED TO DEMONSTRATE HOW WELL PREPARED THE SOVIETS ARE, BUT HE DOUBTS THAT THIS WILL MOTIVATE MANY WEST EUROPEAN LEADERS TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

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6. KULAKOWSKI SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE PRACTICALLY PREPARED A BOOK ON THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT, THE THEME OF THE UPCOMING EAST-WEST CONFERENCE, AND CAN RECITE IT CHAPTER AND VERSE. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE RECENTLY HEARD FROM ICFTU SOURCES, THAT THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS OF SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO TAKE UP AT GENEVA IS TO SET A DATE FOR THE NEXT EAST-

WEST CONFERENCE. KULAKOWSKI ALSO REFERRED TO A STATE-MENT MADE BY A "SOVIET TECHNICIAN" PARTICIPATING IN LAST MONTH'S PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS AT GENEVA TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SCHEDULED DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT WOULD NECESSARILY BE LARGELY CONFINED TO CONDITIONS IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES BECASUE THER ARE NO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

7. KULAKOWSKI STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETINGS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ILO. HE SAID THAT EAST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS WOULD PREFER TO DISCARD THE ILO UMBRELLA IN ORDER TO FORMALIZE THE EAST-WEST RELATONSHIP AND FORCE THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT. KULAKOWSKI DOES NOT BELIEVE THEY WILL PUSH THIS LINE NOW HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE SOVIET DESIRE TO AVOID CONTROBERSY IN THESE EARLY STAGES OF EAST-WEST TALKS.GREENWABD UNQUOTE SISCO

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